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### Sign up for MAC's eNews

Between the quarterly issues of the *State of the Arts*, our staff publishes four separate e-newsletters with opportunities and information:

- Artists' email newsletter
- Arts Educators' email newsletter
- Arts Organizations' email newsletter
- Public Artists' email newsletter

Our eNews contain information that has deadlines that are too short to make the *State of the Arts*. If you'd like to sign-up for one or more of these, please offer us your contact information and what you'd like to receive at: [art.mt.gov/resources/resources\\_soasubscribe.asp](mailto:art.mt.gov/resources/resources_soasubscribe.asp) or send us an email at:

## ARNI'S ADDENDUM

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### Sharing the budget pain

(From page 1)

The council weighed the possibility of going totally online with the paper, but decided against this option because of the popularity of the paper version. While the paper is available online in PDF format, this is hard to read, not searchable and is not available in mobile formats.

Currently there are about 10,000 subscribers who receive the paper version and 1,000 people receive it online.

To address online needs in the future, MAC will research online newspaper platforms during the coming year to implement an interactive paper in the future. This version would be searchable, mobile-friendly and archive-able. At present, there is strong support from the council for continuing the paper version as well.

These changes save \$24,200 in FY16.

#### Grant programs

Two grant programs will also share the pain in the coming year. The Public Value Partnership grant program will be reduced by \$9,000 and the Artist Innovation Awards will be reduced by two awards, for a savings of \$6,000.

In addition, the application review process for performing arts and literature will be done by an online meeting, which cuts administrative costs by \$2,500.

#### Staffing

Staff also shares the pain. We anticipate there will be vacancy savings achieved in the coming year through staff transitions. We will either keep a position open or reduce the percentage of FTE-time. Once we know the transition timeframes we will be able to predict those savings.

#### Operations

The council cut over \$20,000 in a variety of operational costs for FY16.

#### Council members

Council members unanimously agreed that they would encourage the full council to donate the \$50/day honoraria they receive for attending meetings twice a year. This could total up to a \$1,200 savings.

#### Budget additions

The council has received requests from Montanans throughout the state for MAC to get out and about and create more of a personal presence. People have told us they would like their local communities to know more about the agency and what it offers, and have discussions about local, state and national arts issues.

The council has approved three three-day trips for five staff members to the outlying communities to conduct an "Office on the Road." If you would like to see the arts council come to your area, please let me know at [afishbaugh@mt.gov](mailto:afishbaugh@mt.gov).

This line item is \$8,490.

MAC is also budgeting an additional \$12,500 for the website re-design the agency needs to complete this year. Czelsi Kozak is our web designer and she has been doing the work as part of her regular workload. We all

know how that works out: It takes forever.

We need to get this done so we're investing some money in this needed technological advance.

#### Legislative wrap up: Bed Tax Bill tabled

The final weeks of the legislative session ended with extreme disappointment for many arts advocates as SB264, the "Bed Tax" bill, was tabled. It was a roller coaster up until then, however!

The bill left the Senate with \$240,000 for the arts council and each of the other tourism partners (Parks, the Montana Historical Society, Convention and Visitor's Bureaus, the Heritage Commission and Historic Properties). From the Senate it moved to the House

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**MAC on the Road:** If you would like to see MAC visit your town/city as part of its Office on the Road, please email Arni Fishbaugh at [afishbaugh@mt.gov](mailto:afishbaugh@mt.gov).

## NEA turns 50: Share your story

The National Endowment for the Arts is making plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and needs our help. Starting Sept. 29, the date the act to create the NEA was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the NEA will begin filling its website and social media with your stories of how the arts have influenced your life.

In preparation for the anniversary date, the NEA is looking for stories featuring the ways in which the arts and the NEA have influenced the lives of people across the country. A "share your stories" section of the NEA website has been launched to capture stories, photos, audio and video. These stories will help to tell the story of the NEA and the arts in America.

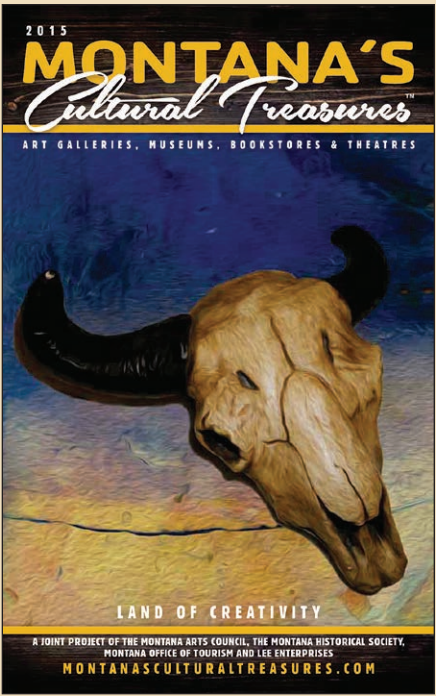
From its founding, the NEA was intended to embody a hope. In a 2008 history of the agency, editor Mark Bauerlein writes of a federal arts program "established to nurture

American creativity, to elevate the nation's culture, and to sustain and preserve the country's many artistic traditions. The Arts Endowment's mission was clear – to spread this artistic prosperity throughout the land,

from the dense neighborhoods of our largest cities to the vast rural spaces, so that every citizen might enjoy America's great cultural legacy."

Please join the celebration of the NEA's 50th anniversary

by telling the story of how the arts are part of your day, how the arts have inspired you to do something unique, how they have made a difference among you and your family, as well as in the communities and neighborhoods in which you live. Share your story at [arts.gov/tell-us-your-story](http://arts.gov/tell-us-your-story).



#### Guide available across the state

The 2015 edition of Montana's Cultural Treasures offers a guide to Montana's art galleries and museums, performing artist, festivals, literary treasures and historical sites is available throughout the state. Pick up a copy at local chambers of commerce, hotels, motels, visitor's centers, airports, and participating museums, galleries, theatres, and bookstores. Learn more at [www.montanasculturaltreasures.com](http://www.montanasculturaltreasures.com).

Taxation Committee where it was amended back up to the original funding levels, with \$1.7 million for the arts council. That same week it moved quickly to the full House, where it was amended back down to \$240,000 to each of the partner agencies.

This bill passed the second reading in the House 68 to 32. Obviously, with this kind of vote, there was strong bi-partisan support. (For those unfamiliar with the legislative lingo, the first reading of a bill is done when it is introduced.)

Because the bill had not gone through the House Appropriations Committee, it had to return there before it could go for a third and final vote on the House floor. The House Approps Committee voted 11 to 9 to table the bill, meaning that it did not pass out of committee. The Committee tabled many of the bills in this fashion this session, including the Film Tax Credit bill, which met the same demise.

Many people ask "How could this happen when a bill passes both the House and the Senate and then gets tabled?" The answer is: politics.

The good news? The tourism industry will advocate for funding again next session. Sometimes even good ideas take several sessions to come to fruition.

### STATE OF THE ARTS

*State of the Arts* is published four times a year by the Montana Arts Council and produced by *Lively Times*.

*State of the Arts* welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2015, for the October/November/December 2015 issue. Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov).

**Subscriptions:** *State of the Arts* is available free of charge to Montana residents as a public service of the Montana Arts Council. To subscribe, call 406-444-6430, or update or sign-up online at [www.art.mt.gov](http://www.art.mt.gov). Out-of-state subscriptions are \$15 per year; mail your check to Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620.